

**STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)
ON EARLY INTERVENTION**

MEETING MINUTES

November 30, 2001
Radisson Hotel
San Diego

ICC MEMBERS PRESENT

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair
George Chance, DSS
Arleen Downing, M.D.
Cynthia Jaynes, DADP
Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D.
Cheri Schoenborn, DDS

ICC MEMBERS ABSENT

Livia Faure-Gault
Nancy Lee, DOI
Hallie Morrow, M.D., DHS
Marie Kanne Poulsen, Ph.D.
Cynthia Rutledge, DMH
Martha Sanchez
Sharon Tettegah, Ph.D.
CDE Representative

CALL TO ORDER

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Peterson welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced George Chance as the new ICC representative for DSS. He also recognized Patty Moore, participating on behalf of Mara McGrath, representing the FRCN of CA and Cheri Schoenborn, participating on behalf of Rick Ingraham, representing DDS. Ruth Cook, Ph.D. also participated on behalf of member Marie Poulsen.

The ICC members, community representatives, staff, and members of the audience provided self-introductions.

It was noted that there was not a quorum of ICC members in attendance, however, Cynthia Rutledge and Martha Sanchez submitted proxy votes for the Action Item.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the Action Item moved up to follow the FRCN report.

APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

The approval of the July meeting minutes could not be voted on due to a lack of a quorum in attendance. This will be postponed to the January 2002 meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Peterson acknowledged changes in the state agency representatives to the ICC. He also addressed the impacts on the service system due to budget shortfalls and the tragic events of September 11th. He indicated we may be faced with the need to shift resources and in a major funding shortfall we don't want to lose the progress that has been made for Early Start. He stated a need to maintain parent professional partnerships and work with the Legislature to ensure that we hold on to what we have.

He announced that ICC Community Representative, Ivete Pena, M.D. has been selected by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to receive the Dr. Albert Anderson Award. Patty Moore and Linda Landry will be accepting the award for Dr. Pena at the Wellness Conference in San Diego next week.

STAFF REPORT

Cheri Schoenborn shared a letter from DDS announcing a call for applications to the ICC. She asked that everyone share this information with anyone interested in serving on the ICC. Applications should be submitted to Cliff Allenby, Director of DDS, by December 31, 2001. The Director's Office will forward all applications received to the appropriate person in the Governor's Office.

Ms. Schoenborn reported that staff are drafting updates to the ICC Handbook. This will contain helpful information for new ICC Members and Community Representatives.

Ms. Schoenborn reported she has been in contact with Herb Schultz from the Department of Managed Health Care. He has agreed to attend the January 2002 meeting to provide information on his department. '

Yvonne McCuiston is no longer with DDS Early Start; she received a promotion in another Section within DDS. Debby Reath is now the DDS Liaison to FSSC. Staff are looking into the feasibility of posting draft ICC meeting minutes on the Early Start website. Currently they are not posted until approved by the ICC. If they are posted as draft, this will be noted and any corrections, if needed, would be made after the minutes are approved by the ICC.

Barbara Ferreira provided due dates for the next meeting packet. Dr. Peterson thanked her and DDS for getting the ICC packets and information out to members prior to the meetings.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK OF CALIFORNIA (FRCN of CA) REPORT

Patty Moore, Past Chair of the FRCN reported for FRCN Chair Mara McGrath on their meeting held on Wednesday (attached). There have been several changes in FRCN directorships. She said they will miss those no longer attending and welcomed the new participants. Dee Hayden provided them with an update of SB 511, the Family Empowerment Act. The allocation of \$2.37 million for Family Empowerment Centers to support families of children aged three to 22 in Special Education will provide an opportunity for FRC's to seek access to the funds to expand their services to families of children over the age of three. Kate Warren urged the Network to stay on top of the upcoming IDEA reauthorization and be prepared to respond to proposed changes when OSEP call for public input. She indicated that the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) and Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) are good web sites to check for information about the reauthorization. The 4th Annual FRCN Training Conference will be held February 25-26, 2002, at the Ontario Marriott Hotel. The theme for this year is "Celebrating Diversity". Ms. Moore reported that Ken Freedlander provided an update from DDS, including status of the family satisfaction survey and the new special service code available to regional centers. Juno Duenas provided a report on Family Voices. She announced a new project funded by the California Health Care Foundation to develop health liaison materials and training. The Health Care Connections Manual is now available in three languages (English, Spanish and now Chinese) and can be downloaded from the Family Voices web site: www.familyvoicesofca.org. Six FRC's reported they have received Prop. 10 funding for new activities. The new "Medical Home" applications were discussed. The FRCN also discussed seeking daily stipends for parent representatives on DDS Early Start monitoring teams, in addition to the reimbursement for travel costs they receive.

ACTION ITEM

Dr. Elaine Schneider moved to accept the 2002 ICC Meeting Schedule as presented. It was seconded and carried with the proxy votes from Cynthia Rutledge and Martha Sanchez constituting a quorum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COTW)

Dr. Peterson stated there had been an excellent panel presentation on child care from: Marie Poulsen, Pamm Shaw, Arlene Downing, Carmen Padilla, Kay Ryan, Cheri Schoenborn and Kate Warren. The ICC expressed a need to continue the discussion on the inclusive child care issue and it will be placed on the agenda for the next COTW. Each committee was also asked to discuss the child care issue from its perspective and provide recommendations to the ICC today.

FSSC will take the lead on the child care issue for the ICC. Dr. Peterson asked Patty Moore and Marie Poulsen to plan the child care agenda for the next COTW meeting, and asked Cheri Schoenborn to provide assistance. Ms. Schoenborn acknowledged the support yesterday's panel received from Virginia Reynolds and the other staff under their contract with the WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention. She said she would secure their assistance for the next COTW meeting as well.

Dr. Peterson reported that he had signed a letter to DDS transmitting the ICC's recommendations on Early Start collaboration with Foster Care.

After lunch and prior to the convening of committee meetings, all committees viewed the physician outreach video developed by First Signs, Inc. and were asked to share their comments with the ICC.

PUBLIC AWARENESS (PAC)

Dr. Schneider turned the reporting task over to committee member Zelna Banks. Ms. Banks, on behalf of the committee, thanked DDS for getting the draft of the meeting minutes completed so quickly.

PAC recommended that the First Signs physician outreach video be shorter and cover more disabilities besides autism. They believe the current physicians brochure coupled with the early warning signs is most effective. At their next meeting, they will review the outreach materials developed by First Signs Inc. to accompany the video.

The protocol for the issuance of ICC Certificates of Appreciation was established. Any person to be awarded a certificate must have been an ICC Member, Community Representative, staff or liaison participating for at least one year, over the past seven years, and have attended at least six meetings. The certificates will be awarded at each March ICC meeting to coincide with the celebration of Early Start Month.

The committee brainstormed strategies to address child care, these included a child developmental chart for child care providers developed in collaboration with local child care Resource and Referral Agencies (R&Rs) and Prop. 10; and a "master plan" to serve all children. They also encouraged attendance at the February 5-7, 2002 CDPAC Conference in Sacramento.

DDS reported status on the following to the PAC: the Early Start PSA will be released to 50 stations throughout the state and family resource centers as soon as approved by the Administration. The 1999-2000 Annual Report is at the Governor's Office for approval, the 2002 Central Directory is in final draft, the Connections Newsletter is undergoing a conceptual revision and the Early Start Fact Sheets are in the process of revision and reprinting.

The PAC report was followed by a discussion in the ICC meeting concerning local public awareness collaboration with the "New Parent Kit" to be disseminated by local Prop. 10 Commissions. Some local communities have placed local Early Start outreach materials in the Kits to be distributed in their area. Kate Warren indicated she would take the message recommending collaboration with Early Start to the California Children and Family Commission's (CCFC) Diversity Committee. She also stated she will take the message that there is a need for the CCFC's public awareness campaign to include children with disabilities.

The ICC also discussed the need to link outreach to child care providers. Information is needed to help child care providers tell parents when to refer a child to Early Start. Ruth Cook indicated she has information that was used in a training session for child care providers on how and when to refer a child for early intervention and she will send this to DDS.

QUALITY ASSURANCE, PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS COMMITTEE (QAPPSC)

Committee member Ruth Cook reported for the committee. She thanked Linda Landry for facilitating the committee meeting for Dr. Poulsen. DDS reported on the Early Start monitoring and the collaborative team process. The committee discussed their role in the providing input on proposed revisions to state regulations. There is a formal public input process. An update on regulations will be placed on the agenda to let the ICC know when public hearings on Early Start regulations are held. The committee also asked DDS to continue to provide status on the family satisfaction survey.

The committee discussed the First Signs physician outreach video and were concerned that it only addressed autism. It could be adapted to be used by local communities. The video was good in that it informed physicians about early infant development and many do not have this background.

The committee discussed strategies for addressing child care. Military child care should be looked at to see how they made effective changes. The committee has concerns of equal access for Prop. 10 funds for children with disabilities and their families and urged members to send letters expressing this to the CCFC.

In the discussion at the ICC meeting following the committee report, it was suggested that letters regarding equal access to Prop. 10 funding could be sent to Rob Reiner, Chair of CCFC, Jane Henderson, Ph.D., Executive Director of CCFC and Commission members, Sandra Gutierrez and Lou Vismara, M.D. who are chairs of the CCFC Diversity Committee. The website for CCFC is www.ccfc.ca.gov. Marianne Walker added that the CCFC's "Sonoma Project" has been seeking input on how the Prop. 10 funds should be expended on children with disabilities. She said they especially want to hear from previously unrepresented populations, especially Asian, tribal, migrant, and rural populations. It is very important for families to provide input on the Project. Ms. Walker stated the Project Director is Linda Blong and she can be contacted by e-mail at linda.blong@sonoma.edu.

HEALTH SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (HSC)

Dr. Downing reported that guests Lisa O'Connor and Robert Powell provided information on the new Speech and Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA). The committee decided that at their next meeting they would discuss how this could be acknowledged in the ICC's document on recommendations regarding the role of therapies in early intervention.

The committee discussed the First Signs physician outreach video. If the video is used in California, there would need to be changes made to adapt to California standards. Dr. Downing reported that the Lanterman Regional Center has a video for physicians on informing parents about their child's disability. She will bring this video to the next HSC meeting in Ontario. They have also invited Juno Duenas to attend the January HSC meeting to report on Family Voices.

The HSC discussed child care and believe there is a need to improve the quality of child care for all children, as well as improving the quality and availability of child care offered for children with special needs. They acknowledged that linking child care to school readiness may be the best approach to be taken now.

The committee requested an interim meeting in Sacramento in early January 2002, for the purpose of addressing vision and hearing assessments. The Chair approved the request.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE (FSSC)

Dr. Peterson thanked Patty Moore for continuing as Co-Chair of the FSSC. Ms. Moore reported they discussed the First Signs physician outreach video. Overall, the committee said it is a good video. The committee recommended that we should look at what already exists in the State and then determine how it could be used. Representatives from Early Head Start indicated they are interested in using the video for training purposes and would like the video to be available in Spanish. It would also be good for outreach to child care providers as well as other service providers.

Juno Duenas presented the FRCN's best practice competencies for FRCN staff. These are known as the "ASK" guidelines, which stands for Abilities, Skill and Knowledge.

The FSSC is moving forward on the child care issue. The Position Paper previously submitted to DDS was discussed with a focus on current economics. They are also looking at Early Childhood Care and Education as it relates to the juvenile justice system. The committee would like information on how the regional centers document the need and use of respite and nursing services and if these services are used in place of child care. The committee discussed the need to collect data on families and their need and use of child care.

Dr. Peterson commended all the committees on the work they have done.

PUBLIC INPUT

Lisa O'Connor, Speech and Language Pathologist, CSULA, President, California Speech and Hearing Association, thanked DDS and the ICC for their efforts over the last few years on barriers to obtaining services. She acknowledged the new service billing code that will avoid delays in providing therapeutic services to young children. The Speech and Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) position is now certified to work in public and private settings and are able to extend services offered to the Early Start community. They expect to have ten SLPA graduates by May 2002. They are also processing requests for SLPA certifications from individuals currently working in the field. These can be awarded based upon demonstration of competencies until 2003. Ms. O'Connor discussed how a maximum of two SLPAs can function in support of, and under the supervision of, one Speech and Language Pathologist. This supervision ratio is consistent with Physical Therapy Assistants. For more information on the SLPA, she directed us to their website: www.cacha.org.

Terry Colborn, Easter Seals, and the Supported Life Institute, announced a two-day workshop: "People to People: Communicating Through Assistive Technology" to be held on January 30-31, 2002, in Sacramento. There will be a strand on early childhood. He also acknowledged receipt of an Early Start

training grant and thanked CEITAN staff for the support received for the Easter Seals Pediatric Training Institute held earlier this month.

Mindy Newhouse, Speech and Language Pathologist, Ventura County acknowledged AB 430 [Budget Act Trailer Bill] that allows DDS to authorize a regional center to use a special service code so that therapeutic early intervention services can be purchased in a timely manner.

Janet Eaton, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, noted that three of the four recipients of the Dr. Albert Anderson Award are individuals who have been very active in Early Start. In addition to Dr. Pena, who was selected as this year's recipient, Dr. Peterson and Dr. Mary Lu Hickman have received the award. The State Council is holding hearings on the crisis in community services and supports. They have extended the written comment period to December 7, 2001. The comments can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to Ms. Eaton. The State Council is also considering objectives for funding under their "State Plan". Two objectives under consideration relate to Early Start. For more information she suggests we check the State Council's website: www.scdd.ca.gov.

Lois Pastore, Director, Hope Infant Program, San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), acknowledged support Early Start funds provided through CEITAN for continued training opportunities. She stated that the Special Education Early Childhood Administrations Project (SEECAP) is a training project that has been underway for eight years and is designed to provide training on leadership, for both parents and professionals. This year's training is February 5-7, 2002, in Anaheim and February 19-21, 2002, in Concord. She also stated that SDCOE has developed a video on Autism, titled "The World of Autism", which is from a parent's point of view. She will bring the video to the next ICC meeting.

Sandy Harvey, Program Coordinator, Parent Links. Announced the upcoming CAL-ED/IMPACT Conference "Treasuring the Past – Blazing New Trails" to be held March 8-10, 2002, in Sacramento (announcement attached). Parent Links now has four parent coordinators located near newborn hearing screening sites in Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Pamm Shaw provided information on the California Association of Young Children, which is accrediting child care providers and centers. She also announced "All of Us Together" which is a workshop that brings together teams from regional centers, local education agencies' pre-schools and special education, and child care providers. The workshops are sponsored by CDE, Child Development Division and will be held January 14-15, in Pomona and March 18-20, in Berkeley.

Mary Ann Walker announced that the California Head Start Association's Annual Conference will be held January 17-20, 2002. New Early Head Start programs have been named, mostly in Southern California. She provided brief information on some of the new awards and acknowledged the strong community partnerships.

Christine Bidwell, Exceptional Family Resource Center, San Diego, asked how to get a reply from DDS regarding Early Start complaints. Cheri Schoenborn responded that all formal complaints submitted to DDS are actively responded to in accordance with Early Start policy and procedures. Ms. Schoenborn stated that Debby Reath, who was at the meeting, is the DDS Liaison to the San Diego area and can provide additional information to Ms. Bidwell and the FRC about the complaint process.

AGENCY REPORTS

LEAD AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)

Cheri Schoenborn reported that California's new project officer in the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is Rhonda Ingle. DDS and OSEP are working out the details of OSEP's review of the State's Part C program. The plans may include Ms. Ingle visiting California in Spring 2002, to participate in a monitoring visit in one of the regional center catchment areas and her attendance at an ICC Meeting. In response to the OSEP review and the need for information about the Part C program, DDS has contracted with Xenologix Inc. to conduct a statewide Early Start family satisfaction survey. The survey is being conducted by telephone. DDS had previously shared a draft of the survey with members of the FSSC and QAPPSC, as well as FRCs, seeking their input. Ken Freedlander is heading this project in DDS.

Monitoring teams consisting of representatives from DDS, CDE or their SEEDS contract staff, and the ICC, including parent representatives, are continuing full scope monitoring in regional center catchment areas. The request for parent stipends for parents participating on review teams will be taken back to DDS Administration for a response. The results of the full scope monitoring, as well as record reviews, are shared with OSEP. The teams recently completed Orange County and the East Bay regional center areas. The next scheduled area is South Central Los Angeles, in January 2002.

Ms. Schoenborn reported that Section 95004(b) of the California Early Intervention Services Act was amended by the Budget Act "Trailer Bill". The new language clarifies the requirement for regional centers to comply with the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act and its implementing regulations, including, but not limited to, those provisions relating to vendorization and ratesetting. The new language added reemphasizes that application of state law cannot conflict with federal statutes, specifically where application of the

Lanterman Act would result in any delays in, or any cost to, the families for the provision of early intervention services. In such situations, Ms. Schoenborn stated that DDS may now authorize a regional center to use a special therapeutic service code to allow timely procurement of the early intervention service. The Schedule of Maximum Allowance does not apply to the services provided under the new code. She provided a copy of the DDS Program Advisory explaining the statute change and the new service code (attached).

Early Start regulations need to be revised to reflect the 1999 changes to the federal regulations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The changes apply to the definition of parent and the assurance that, when applicable, decisions on compliance complaints also address remedies for denial of appropriate services. The next step is the State's formal process of releasing the draft regulations for public comment. DDS will keep the ICC informed as the process progresses. Ms. Schoenborn also noted that OSEP is holding public forums in different locations throughout the Nation to receive input on the next reauthorization of IDEA. For additional information, refer to OSEP's web site: www.ed.gov/offices/osers/osep.

Ms. Schoenborn provided information on all of the upcoming Early Start personnel development/training activities. This information is included in the "Master Calendar of Events" included in the ICC packet. In addition, the DDS Wellness Forum will be held December 5-7, 2001 in San Diego. She also shared information on "Developmental Disabilities An Update for Health Professionals." This is a two-day continuing medical education course to be held March 1-2, 2002, sponsored by DDS through the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine and the San Diego School of Medicine (announcement attached). Training information is also available on the DDS website: www.dds.ca.gov. Ms. Schoenborn announced the Early Start special topic training on evaluation and assessment to be held February 21, 2002, in San Diego. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is co-sponsoring this event with DDS. Drs. Stephen Bagnato and John Neisworth from Pennsylvania will speak on the latest practical information on multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary evaluation and assessment practices within everyday routines, activities and places. Early Start scholarship funds and training grants are available through DDS' contract with WestEd, under the CEITAN project. Status of the scholarship fund is attached.

The Annual Governor's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held December 11, 2001. Davis Wood, a child with a developmental disability, from Mammoth Lakes, will be participating with lighting the tree this year.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)

George Chance stated that DSS has just concluded a re-organization and he shared a copy of the new organization chart (attached). Nina Grayson is the chief of the new Child Protection and Family Support Branch. Mr. Chance is the Chief of the new Early Intervention Unit within the Branch. His Unit will provide linkages between the Office of Child Abuse Protection (OCAP) and other DSS child related services and will also focus is on building partnerships and linkages with community providers and other State Departments. Mr. Chance provided an update on the Welfare Stakeholders Group and its four workgroups: Community Partnership and Prevention; Early Intervention and Deferential Response; Safety Change and Maintenance Intervention; and Out of Home Care, Permanency and Advo-care. The overlapping themes of the workgroups address fairness, equity, outcomes, comprehensive system of service, flexible infrastructure of public and private agencies, clarification of roles and responsibilities, strengthening families with quality practice, and assuring children's rights (see summary attached). He also indicated that DSS is preparing for a federal review.

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS (DADP)

Cynthia Jaynes reported on new research using ultrasound for identifying effects of fetal alcohol syndrome. The website www.jointogether.org has several items on fetal alcohol syndrome and related information. DADP had a \$1 million reduction in prenatal services throughout the state. The budget cut will not impact existing residential projects.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.